

(Water Mun. B.)



THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF UXBRIDGE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF
HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1947

W. TOWNSEND DOBSON, M.R.C.S. (ENG.), L.R.C.P. (LOND.)

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1947

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
259, HIGH STREET,
UXBRIDGE.

July, 1948.

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE UXBRIDGE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for 1947 upon the health and conditions of the Urban District of Uxbridge.

In accordance with the instructions contained in Ministry of Health circulars, this Report has again been restricted to essential and urgent matters.

I consider that the health of the Uxbridge Urban District is very satisfactory. The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1947 is 21·00 while the Rate for Uxbridge is 22·77 per thousand. The Death Rate for England and Wales is 12·0 per thousand while this year's Rate for Uxbridge is 9·6.

I wish to express my appreciation of the excellent work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors and Clerical Staff, especially by Mr. V. E. Baughan, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, who has embodied in this Report a large amount of detail of the work carried out under his supervision.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. TOWNSEND DOBSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

AREA.

Total area of District 10,237 acres.

POPULATION.

The Registrar-General's Estimate of Population for the mid-year 1947 is 50,360.

TOTAL BIRTHS.

<i>Sex</i>	<i>Live Legitimate</i>	<i>Live Illegitimate</i>	<i>Stillborn Legitimate</i>	<i>Stillborn Illegitimate</i>	<i>Total</i>
Males ...	556	25	5	—	586
Females...	535	19	5	2	561
Totals ...	1,091	44	10	2	1,147

BIRTH RATE.

		1946		1947		Basis.
		No.	Birth Rate.	No.	Birth Rate	
LIVE BIRTHS	Legitimate	914	18.838	1091	21.664	Per 1,000 Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population
	Illegitimate	58	1.195	44	0.873	
	Total	972	20.033	1135	22.537	
STILL BIRTHS	Legitimate	20	20.141	10	8.719	Per 1,000 total (i.e., live and still) births
	Illegitimate	1	1.007	2	1.743	
	Total	21	21.148	12	10.462	
TOTAL BIRTHS	Legitimate	934	19.249	1101	21.862	Per 1,000 Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population
	Illegitimate	59	1.216	46	0.912	
	Total	993	20.465	1147	22.774	

The Birth Rate of 22.774 for 1947 is the highest recorded since 1920, when the rate for the Urban District was 26.38 and 28.00 for the Rural District.

DEATHS AND DEATH RATE.

	Total Deaths (All Causes)		Death Rate (per 1,000) Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population.	
	1946	1947	1946	1947
Male ...	235	248	9.480	9.651
Female ...	225	238		
TOTAL ...	460	486		

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The following table shows causes of death as given in the Registrar-General's statistics.

<i>Cause of Death.</i>						<i>No. of Deaths.</i>	
						1946	1947
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	...	...	...	...	...	18	15
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
Syphilitic Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	6	3
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Acute Infective Encephalitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Cancer of Buccal Cavity & Œsophagus (M) :							
Uterus (F) ...	...	...	...	...	...	11	10
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	...	...	...	...	...	11	14
Cancer of Breast ...	...	...	...	...	...	7	14
Cancer of All Other Sites ...	...	...	...	...	...	51	53
Diabetes ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions ...	...	...	...	...	...	41	43
Heart Disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	119	122
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	...	...	...	...	...	28	36
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	24	21
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	25	45
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	4	3
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	6
Diarrhœa under 2 Years ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
Appendicitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	5	2
Other Digestive Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	8	9
Nephritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	9	18
Puerperal and Post-Abortion Sepsis ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other Maternal Causes ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Premature Birth ...	...	...	...	...	...	6	5
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries, Infantile Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	17	13
Suicide ...	...	...	...	...	...	4	5
Road Traffic Accidents ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5
Other Violent Causes...	...	...	...	...	...	13	11
All Other Causes ...	...	...	...	...	...	40	31

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Death Rate per 1,000</i>
In Total Live Births ...	21	11	32	28·194
In Legitimate Live Births	21	11	32	29·331
In Illegitimate Live Births	—	—	—	—

The number of deaths of infants under one year has increased from 29 during 1946 to 32 during the year under review, but due to the increase in the total number of live births, the rate has decreased from 29·835 to 28·194 per thousand Live Births.

DEATHS.

There has been a slight increase of ·171 in the Death Rate, but the figure of 9·651 for 1947 compares most favourably with that for England and Wales, which is 12·0 per thousand of the Registrar-General's estimated population.

I am pleased to report that tuberculosis deaths show a decrease from 22 to 17 for all forms, and it is gratifying to note there were no deaths from puerperal sepsis or other maternal causes during the year under review.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the cases of infectious diseases notified. The figures for the year 1947 show little variation from those of the previous year, but I am pleased to say there were no cases of diphtheria, and there was a reduction from 43 to 27 in the number of cases of puerperal pyrexia.

Measles was the only disease to show epidemic prevalence during the year ; this increase was not peculiar to Uxbridge, but was part of the cycle of incidence which occurs with this disease.

During the epidemic of infantile paralysis which occurred in the country only four cases of poliomyelitis were notified in this District. Of these one only was severe, and after treatment at the Isolation Hospital, including a period in an iron lung, the patient was removed to the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore, for treatment of paralysis.

The number of new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified during 1947 was 54, compared with 70 during the preceding year ; while first cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis show a reduction from 20 to 12.

CLASSIFIED LIST OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

Disease	Ages of Cases Notified												Total 1947	Total 1946	Total Cases Admitted to Hospital		Deaths	
	Under One Year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and up- wards			1947	1946	1947	1946
Scarlet Fever	—	3	2	8	3	52	22	2	3	1	1	—	90	82	—	—	—	
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	—	
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	5	14	2	27	5	—	—	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	4	—	—	43	2	—	—	—	
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	4	—	—	—	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	
Pneumonia...	—	—	1	—	1	2	3	1	3	4	20	12	22	28	45	—	25	
Small-pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	—	—	—	—	—	See Table do.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
”(Non-Pulmonary)...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	
Anterior Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	
Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Measles ...	19	36	56	68	53	252	11	9	11	—	1	—	23	2	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough ...	9	8	12	11	13	38	2	—	—	—	1	—	6	6	—	—	—	

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	1	1
5—15	3	2	5	2	1	3
15—25	15	13	28	—	2	2
25—35	8	6	14	1	2	3
35—45	7	6	13	2	2	4
45—55	3	4	7	—	—	—
55—65	1	—	1	—	1	1
65 and up	2	—	2	1	—	1
TOTALS	39	31	70	6	9	15

AGE PERIODS	DEATHS					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	1	1
5—15	—	2	2	—	—	—
15—25	2	1	3	—	1	1
25—35	1	—	1	—	—	—
35—45	4	1	5	—	—	—
45—55	2	1	3	—	—	—
55—65	1	—	1	—	—	—
65 and up	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	10	5	15	—	2	2

Of the total of 70 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis added to the register during the year, 16 were transferred from other districts, while of the 15 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis 3 were transferred from other districts.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The number of immunisations completed in the year was 657, divided into two age groups, as follows :—

<i>Under 5 years.</i>	<i>5 years but under 15</i>
603	54

In addition 282 children received a “boost” injection.

This brings the total number of children, who were under 15 years of age at 31st December, 1947, and who have completed a full course of immunisation at any time prior to that date, to :—

<i>Under 5 years.</i>	<i>5 years but under 15</i>
1,842 ... 41·00%	6,677 ... 87·2%

a total of 8,519, or 70·1% of the estimated child population of 12,150.

During the year the Ministry of Health, through the Central Office of Information, again organised a nation-wide immunisation publicity campaign. Advantage was taken of this and full publicity given to the local facilities for immunisation, by means of slides at the local cinemas, posters, distribution of handbills and press advertising ; all arrangements were made by the Public Health Department.

The following table shows the incidence of diphtheria and the number of deaths from the disease, giving the figures for the country as a whole as well as those for Uxbridge.

The figures require no comment, for they show the enormous progress made in the fight against diphtheria since the immunisation campaign commenced in 1940.

Year	Deaths		Cases	
	England and Wales	Uxbridge	England and Wales	Uxbridge
1931-40 (average)	2,800	2	55,300	34
1940	2,480	2	46,281	43
1941	2,641	3	50,797	44
1942	1,827	5	41,404	43
1943	1,371	—	34,662	—
1944	934	—	29,949	9
1945	722	—	25,246	1
1946	472	—	18,283	2
1947	245	—	10,469	—

SCABIES.

As stated in my reports for 1945 and 1946 a clinic for the treatment of refractory cases of scabies is held, as required, at the Joint Isolation Hospital. The following table shows the number of cases undergoing treatment during the year under review :—

Oak Farm Clinic, Hillingdon	...	...	26
County Offices Clinic, Uxbridge	...	...	7
Private medical practitioners	...	...	9
			—
			42
			—

The Scabies Order, 1941, expired on 31st December, 1947, and ceased to be operative after that date, and Councils reverted to their normal statutory powers, contained in the Public Health Acts, for dealing with verminous conditions.

The Clinic at the Joint Isolation Hospital had provided a most useful service in the treatment of scabies, and I am pleased to report that the Board of the Hospital agreed to continue the clinic after 1st January, 1948.

REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES.

The following summary shows the inspections and other duties carried out by the Inspectorate during the year 1947, when a total of 5,574 visits were made.

Houses inspected under Housing Act	...	...	226
Premises visited under Public Health Acts	...	...	508
Re-visits to houses and other premises	...	...	1,198
Visits to works in progress	...	...	253
Unclassified visits	...	...	430
Visits to factories	...	...	188
,, outworkers' premises	...	...	33
,, bakehouses	...	...	18
,, restaurants and tearooms	...	...	65
,, butchers' shops and slaughterhouses	...	...	102
,, fish shops	...	...	14
,, grocers' shops and wholesale depots	...	...	67
,, food hawkers' premises	...	...	35
,, dairies and milk shops	...	...	42
,, cowsheds	...	...	38
,, piggeries	...	...	30
,, manufacturers and purveyors of ice cream	...	...	41
,, gypsy encampments and caravans	...	...	155
,, common lodging houses	...	...	3
,, school premises	...	...	1
,, petroleum installations	...	...	50
Visits re Shops Acts	...	...	122
,, unsound food	...	...	319
,, nuisances from animals	...	...	26
,, water supply	...	...	58
,, drainage and cesspools	...	...	204
,, ponds and ditches	...	...	5
,, rats and mice	...	...	91
,, insect pests	...	...	106
,, infectious diseases	...	...	125
,, scabies	...	...	1
,, alleged overcrowding	...	...	87
,, Council houses	...	...	175
,, permitted numbers	...	...	95
Council houses inspected	...	...	84
,, ,, applications verified	...	...	168
Smoke observations	...	...	3
Water samples taken	...	...	58
Milk samples taken	...	...	83
Interviews	...	...	267
<hr/>			
Informal Notices served	...	...	567
Statutory Notices served	...	...	62

NUISANCES.

Seven hundred and eighty-four complaints were received relating to the following matters :—

Defective drains and sanitary fittings	...	108
Defective water storage tanks and fittings	...	73
Insanitary condition of house	... ..	24
General defects	... ..	43
Defective chimneys and fireplaces	... ..	22
„ walls and ceilings	... ..	34
„ floors	... ..	11
„ roofs and guttering	... ..	33
„ doors and windows	... ..	14
„ sinks and wash-hand basins	... ..	11
„ dustbins	... ..	66
Nuisance from dampness	... ..	55
Verminous premises	... ..	19
Accumulation of refuse or manure	... ..	26
Nuisance from keeping animals	... ..	19
„ „ gypsies	... ..	44
„ „ rats or mice	... ..	104
„ „ ponds or ditches	... ..	9
Miscellaneous nuisances	... ..	69

The number of complaints received during the year, compared with 580 in 1946 and 402 in 1945, indicates a steadily growing awareness on the part of the public of the functions of the Public Health Department.

PROVISION OF DUSTBINS.

The scheme for the re-sale of dustbins to the public has continued in operation, and during the year 1947 206 dustbins have been sold to the owners of dwelling houses and business premises. The total number sold since the scheme was started in 1941 is 1,502. In each case the premises in question are inspected and the need for a sanitary dustbin confirmed.

FACTORIES.

The following tables show the number of inspections made, defects found, and the result of action taken.

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	36	42	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies				
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938	—	—	—	—
(b) Others	124	139	11	—
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	6	7	—	—
TOTAL ...	166	188	12	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	4	1	—	—	—
(a) insufficient	10	7	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	—	2	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	17	9	2	—	—
TOTAL					

3. HOME-WORK.

During the year 33 visits of inspection were made to the homes of outworkers residing in the District ; all the premises were found to be in a satisfactory condition. One case of infectious disease occurred in the home of an outworker, and in addition to the routine disinfection of the premises all items of wearing apparel, in the making of which the person was employed, were disinfected.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Wholesale depots, food shops, stalls, slaughter-houses and other premises where food is prepared, stored or sold, have been frequently visited and the foodstuffs examined ; the condition of the various premises has been found generally satisfactory.

The total amount of food surrendered for destruction during the year was 9 tons 5 cwts. 57 lbs., an increase of 50 per cent. over that dealt with in the preceding year. This food was disposed of in accordance with the instructions of the Salvage Department of the Ministry of Food.

During the year 130 pigs were slaughtered under licence of the Ministry of Food. In all cases the carcase and organs were inspected, and the following were found to be unsound :—

- 1 Pluck—Pleurisy.
- 1 Pluck—Cystic affection.
- 2 Lungs—Pleurisy.
- 2 Forelegs—Cysts.

The above were surrendered and destroyed by burning.

There is continued close co-operation between the Public Health Department and the Local and Divisional Offices of the Ministry of Food.

WATER SUPPLY.

The District has a piped supply from two undertakings, namely, that of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company and the Council's own undertaking. The total supply from the two undertakings has always been adequate for the requirements of the District.

During the year 12 samples were taken from the bores and 12 from the mains of the Council's undertaking and 13 from the mains of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company. All samples were found to be of high bacterial purity and safe for drinking purposes.

Seven statutory notices were served requiring the provision of a piped mains water supply in respect of properties provided with water from shallow wells, the waters from which had been shown upon bacteriological examination to be unsuitable for domestic use.

The number of dwelling houses and the population supplied from public mains are estimated to be as follows :—

			<i>Number of dwelling houses</i>	<i>Population</i>
Direct to the house	...	...	13,073	49,760
By means of stand-pipes	...	...	129	479

SWIMMING POOL.

The Council's swimming pool was open to the public during the season May to September.

Twenty-one samples of pool water were taken for bacteriological examination, the frequency of sampling being determined by the climatic conditions prevailing and the number of bathers using the pool. Seventeen samples showed the water to be in a state of bacterial purity comparable to that of mains drinking water ; four samples gave results showing the presence of colonies of organisms, and immediate steps were taken to counteract this condition.

MILK SUPPLY.

(a) *Premises and Purveyors.*

The following table shows the number of registered premises and purveyors within the District :—

Producers (wholesale)	...	...	...	...	17
Producers (retail)	...	...	...	...	3
Retail purveyors	...	...	...	...	8
Retail purveyors from other Districts	...	...	...	...	2

Of the 20 producers three are licensed by the Middlesex County Council to produce Tuberculin Tested milk and four licensed to produce Accredited milk.

Sixteen principal and three supplementary licences were granted under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders for the sale of graded milks.

(b) *Bacteriological Examination.*

The following table shows the number of samples of milk taken for bacteriological and other special examination, and the results of such examination :—

<i>Class of Milk</i>			<i>Number of samples</i>	<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	15	7	8
Accredited	...	...	20	12	8
Pasteurised	...	...	4	2	2
Pasteurised	...	...	44	42	2

(Milk in Schools Scheme)

From the foregoing it will be observed that of a total of 83 samples 20, or 24.1 per cent., were found to be unsatisfactory.

Of the 16 failures in graded milks 13 did not comply with the coliform standard, and 3 failed to pass the methylene blue test.

Copies of all reports received on samples of graded milk examined are sent to the Milk Executive Officer of the County Agricultural Executive Committee and to the producers. Active co-operation exists between the officers of the County Agricultural Executive Committee and this Department.

The 4 samples of pasteurised milk were taken from the same retailer. The first 2 samples failed to pass the methylene blue test and the matter was taken up with the retailer concerned to ensure that satisfactory methods of handling and bottle washing were employed. Two samples taken at intervals later in the year were found to be satisfactory.

In respect of milk supplied under the Milk in Schools Scheme, which is obtained from three different retailers, 44 samples were taken at various schools in the area. With two exceptions all samples taken passed the methylene blue and phosphatase tests; this is again considered satisfactory. With regard to the samples which failed the tests the matter was taken up with the retailer, who was provided with a copy of the reports. Copies of all reports on samples of school milk are sent to the County Medical Officer of Health.

As in previous years all samples of milk taken were submitted to the Gerber tests in the laboratory of the Public Health Department; all samples were found to comply with the requirements of the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1939.

ICE CREAM.

With the coming into operation of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947, all premises where ice cream was known to be prepared or retailed were again visited and conditions and methods checked with the requirements of the Regulations.

In this District there is no plant operating for the production of ice cream mixes which involves the use of materials requiring heat treatment as laid down by the Regulations.

Seven retailers prepare ice cream from a complete cold mix powder, pasteurised in manufacture which is re-constituted with water and converted into ice cream which must be kept at a temperature not exceeding 28° Fahrenheit, by the retailer. The majority of ice cream sold in the District is not prepared from complete cold mix powders, but is obtained from various manufacturers outside the area in fully processed and frozen form ready for sale in cornets or wafers or as pre-wrapped ice cream.

Eighteen samples were taken for examination by the recommended methylene blue test. In obtaining these samples attention was paid particularly to those retailers who prepared ice cream from complete cold mix powders and those retailing unwrapped ice cream. The results obtained were disappointing and sometimes inconsistent. The present officially recommended method of testing provides a quick means of grading the material, but it is hoped that a more positive standard will be in operation in the near future.

DISINFECTION.

Ninety-six disinfections were carried out following the occurrence of infectious disease.

DISINFESTATION.

During the year twenty-two disinfestations were carried out at bug-infested Council houses and private dwellings.

In connection with the provision of additional housing accommodation in the District, it was decided to take advantage of the persistent properties of Gammexane and D.D.T. insecticides in the treatment of houses prior to occupation. For this the Council purchased a self-contained petrol driven compressor unit capable of operating in any location.

New empty houses are sprayed with an odourless kerosene which acts as a vehicle for the insecticide; the kerosene rapidly evaporates without damaging decorated surfaces, leaving a practically invisible crystalline deposit which if undisturbed remains effective for months.

The apparatus was first put into use in April and up to the close of the year 119 new Council houses had been treated.

RODENT CONTROL.

Throughout the year the Rodent Control Section of the Public Health Department continued to operate, and works of disinfestation were carried out at factories, wholesale depots, business premises and private dwelling houses. Works were also carried out at the Council's refuse tips, depots and premises.

In continuation of the treatment of sewers first carried out in 1944 and repeated in 1946, a further maintenance treatment of the sewers in the town area of Uxbridge and the outer areas of the District was carried out in September, 1947, in accordance with arrangements made at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. A systematic baiting and poisoning campaign took place and all areas of infestation detected were dealt with. One hundred and thirty-three manholes were baited, in 45 of which baits were taken; the total estimated kill being 393 rats.

PATHOLOGICAL WORK.

All samples (milk, water, food, sputa, swabs, etc.) were submitted to Dr. R. G. McGowan, Hampstead Laboratory, Cottage Hospital, Uxbridge.